

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2003

CONTACT: Israel Klein

or Jeff Duncan

(202) 225-2836

MARKEY CALLS ON REPUBLICANS TO REJECT SECRET SUBSIDY FOR LNG IN OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL

WASHINGTON, DC - Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior Democratic Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee today sent a letter to Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) and Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) revealing the existence of a \$2 billion subsidy for oil and gas companies to construct a new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility in Alaska and LNG tanker ships to transport the gas. The provision, which was blocked from being attached to the Energy Bill, was quietly added to a proposed the Omnibus spending bill that is awaiting a vote in the House and Senate next week.

"Even the energy bill, which is chock full of pork barrel subsidies for wealthy oil and gas companies, didn't include this egregious and unwarranted taxpayer giveaway," said Rep. Markey.

Rep. Markey added, "However, this bad idea has now resurfaced as a rider to the final appropriations bill, ensuring that Exxon-Mobil, Conoco Phillips, and BP get the taxpayers to subsidize LNG facilities and tankers in Alaska."

"I see no reason why the American taxpayer needs to subsidize huge global oil and gas companies as the industry expands LNG terminals, opens new LNG terminals, and orders new tankers. Clearly this is an industry that is meeting heightened demands without the need for another government handout."

Rep. Markey's letter to Reps. Barton and Shimkus was prompted by language in Section 146 of the Omnibus Appropriations bill earmarking \$1 million to fund Section 386 (g) of H.R. 6, the Energy Bill, which would guarantee \$2 billion in federal loans for the construction of an LNG facility on the West Coast. The Energy Bill has been filibustered by the Senate and may not even become law; however this section of it could be funded if the Omnibus Appropriations bill is passed by the House and Senate.

"The Republican Energy Bill has been called the 'No Lobbyist Left Behind Act.' I guess that is incorrect. A few lobbyists *were* left behind when the Energy Conferees dropped the \$2 billion LNG subsidy from the bill, so they just convinced the Republican leadership to add the provision to the appropriations bill, hoping no one would notice," Rep. Markey concluded.

The enclosures to the letter are copies of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill language, the relevant Energy Bill language, and the vote tally in the House Conference Committee on the Energy Bill.

Copies of the letter and enclosures are available at Rep. Markey's website,
<http://www.house.gov/markey>.

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